

ITRI 671 Research Ethics Form

Name: Enrico Dreyer

Title of project: Developing a web application to improve communication in the industry.

1. Have you read the information available related to research ethics (Chapter 5 of Researching Information Systems and Computing; BJ Oates and Chapter 13 of Writing for computer science, J Zobel; Manual for post graduate studies, available on efundi)?	Yes	
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2. Do you make use of people as source of data in your project (for example the completion of questionnaires or evaluation of products)?	Yes	
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3. Are there any aspects of your research that you need permission from another party to use (for example use of property or tools)? If yes, provide more detail.		No
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4. Describe your research question and give a short description of your plans for the collection of data. I want to create a web application to improve communication in the industry. The questions that will be asked will be on ways that my web application can improve the communication between the project managers and developers, and that will lead to workflow being more effective and efficient. Some qualitative research methods include observation, interviews and focus groups. Because I am already working in the industry my general observation was the need for a communication system, and my plan is to have an interview with a project manager with experience in the specific field. This will ensure that my research is accurate and that I am getting the answers that I need.

5. Describe how you plan to provide information about yourself and the goals of your research to participants.

I plan to give them a broad idea of what I want to accomplish and the ideas that I have for the web application.

After giving them my idea, I want to hear what they think and give their own input. I want to hear what features they think are more important than others, especially on what they want to see on the first page and side menu options.

It is important for me to know what external applications they use on a daily basis to minimise the learning curve for the users when using my web application.

6. Describe what methods you will use to get permission from participants in your study.

I will set up a contract that states that none of the companies' personal data will be used for my study. Only on what the project manager's view is on my study and their ideas. This will be signed before doing the interview.

7. Will you be able to ensure that participants' information will be used in an anonymous, private and confidential way?

Yes

8. Are there any foreseeable risks of damage (physical, social or psychological) to participants or the environment? If you answer yes, give detail of the preventative measures you will follow.		No
9. Are there any foreseeable risks to the NWU, for example lawful actions that may follow the research, or damage to the image of the university? If yes, give detail.		No
10. Are there any other ethical issues that may occur during the execution of the research (for example conflicting interests)? If yes, provide detail and explain how you plan to handle them.		No

Name: Enrico Dreyer

Signature:

Date: 2021/05/09

Name of study leader:

Signature:

Date: